



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

15 December 1970

Mr. Howard J. Osborn  
Director of Security

Dear Howard:

I am writing to thank you and your associates for the signal honor conferred and conveyed by your kind note of 11 December.

For seventeen years I have had the highest regard for the professionalism and sensitive sophistication of the Office of Security. This regard commenced with my first direct exposure to your colleagues in the "Building 13" interview that constituted part of my initial processing when I first entered on duty in December 1953. The urbanity, intelligence and graceful good sense with which your associate (or former associate) [redacted] handled that interview left me with a lastingly favorable impression of your office, reinforced over the years by many subsequent and varied dealings with other associates of yours at Headquarters and at various stations in the field. In matters large and small, relatively simple or (on occasion) extremely complex, the Office of Security and its members have always delivered the goods and done what needed to be done -- efficiently, effectively, quietly and with a minimum of wast motion. As you know even better than I, your office is loaded with fine and able people, many of whom I am proud to count as friends as well as colleagues.

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The role your office plays is obviously a crucial one, but very few in the Agency seem to appreciate how extensive or important it is. I suppose that being taken largely for granted is, in a sense, a tacit testimony to your efficiency. Furthermore, some of the things you do best are not widely known, precisely because they have been done so well. In addition to the obvious responsibilities that virtually everyone in the Agency at least dimly recognizes as falling within your ken, you

and your officers over the years have done a myriad of things for many people that to the untutored eye might seem well outside your charter. I am personally aware of a number of people who have had problems solved, dissipated or defused through the tact, discretion and sound common sense of one of your colleagues willingly lending a quiet hand at a potentially difficult time. I am sure that because of that very discretion in which your associates excel, the number of those whom you have helped in various ways far exceeds even my estimate.

That this Agency could not function without an Office of Security is a patently obvious truism. But this Agency would never be what it is today had it not been uniquely well served by those who have staffed this essential office over the years. Throughout the Agency's two-plus decades of existence, we have been singularly fortunate in having a Security Office manned by people notable for their thorough professional competence, sound common sense, flexible and innovative imagination, and -- above all -- their very broad gauged, humane concept of their responsibilities. I am very proud to be included in your company and request that you convey my thanks to all who had a hand in extending this much appreciated honor.

Sincerely,



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George A. Carver, Jr.  
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

December 11, 1970

Mr. George Carver  
Special Assistant for Vietnam Affairs

Dear George:

Traditionally, at this time of the year, it has been our custom to extend warmest Seasons Greetings to one special friend outside of our office.

This year all of your many friends in the Office of Security were unanimous in designating you as the one person in the Agency who has done the most for the office during the past year. Your warm willingness to brief our people on numerous occasions and your prompt and thoughtful recognition of the support and service we have given you from time to time has been a very fine thing to see. As our most recent honorary member of our Security team, I want you to know that we stand ready to serve you; either personally or officially, in any way and at any time.

Sincerely,



Howard J. Osborn  
Director of Security

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